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EAST AFRICA

ENVIRONMENT

East Africa is endowed with a wealth of biodiversity and natural resources, including some of the most spectacular wildlife and ecosystems in the world. When managed well and equitably, these vast yet fragile lands, water, and wildlife resources – or natural capital – can contribute significantly to national and regional economies and improve the lives of local communities. East Africa's tourism industry, which is almost entirely dependent on wildlife and protected areas, contributes 7.5-10 percent of GDP to the region, and is a major driver of job creation.

The pressure of growing human populations coupled with changing weather patterns, rampant wildlife poaching and trafficking across porous borders, and disjointed management of shared natural resources threatens the conservation of East Africa's natural capital. Many priority landscapes and wildlife habitats in East Africa are crossed by political boundaries, making it critical for nations to work together on the survival of wildlife and the habitats they depend on. A regional effort is needed to address national-level problems that are exacerbating the decline in wildlife populations and habitat loss.

CONSERVING EAST AFRICA'S NATURAL CAPITAL

USAID is supporting a regional program led by the East Africa Community (EAC) to strengthen regional leadership and policy harmonization to conserve and manage shared natural resources in East Africa. Through its regional programming, USAID is providing research, data, and economic analysis on the current and potential value of natural capital in East Africa and providing East African leaders with innovative methodologies, tools, and best practices to act. USAID partnerships in the region support stakeholder learning and advocacy and provide decision makers with the evidence they need to formulate effective policy and enforcement.

USAID is partnering with Internews to enhance the quality and quantity of reporting on threats to conservation and wildlife, and on solutions to those threats. Their work is helping to increase awareness in East Africa of the importance of conservation, with a focus on wildlife

trafficking and on the corruption that allows it to thrive. The partnership provides promising East African journalists with mentorship, training, distribution support and production stipends that allow them to spend time researching and investigating conservation.

USAID is working with WildlifeDirect to raise awareness on wildlife conservation through their television show Wildlife Warriors. The show provides perspectives on conservation conveyed through Africa's conservation heroes while tackling pressing biodiversity and climate change challenges. WildlifeDirect compliments their nature programming with kids' clubs that are engaging and inspiring a new generation of conservation leaders.

COUNTERING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime threatens the security, economy, and biodiversity of East Africa. International networks for poaching, transit, and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries.

In line with the U.S. Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act, USAID is supporting the East African Community and development partners to enhance wildlife management and improve the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime in East Africa. New tools, such as the Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange, helps law enforcement officers in the region share information to stop wildlife crime.

USAID has also partnered with UNDP to reduce maritime trafficking of wildlife at key East Africa ports. The project focuses on strengthening capacity of law enforcement agencies and coordination with the private sector to prevent, detect and intercept wildlife trafficking.

USAID has an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for a seven-year project that utilizes DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution to address the transnational threat of wildlife crime. The partnership provides expertise and training on wildlife protection, law enforcement, and prosecution at national levels in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

BUDGET: (FY 2020)

USD \$5 million

KEY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS:

East African Community, Ministries of Tourism and Wildlife, Ministries of Environment and Forestry, and Regional Development Authorities

KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- USAID missions in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya
- United Nations Development Programme
- Ministries of Environment in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya
- Wildlife Authorities in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- TRAFFIC
- Environmental Incentives, LLC
- Internews
- WildlifeDirect
- Kenya Environment and Science Journalists Association

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